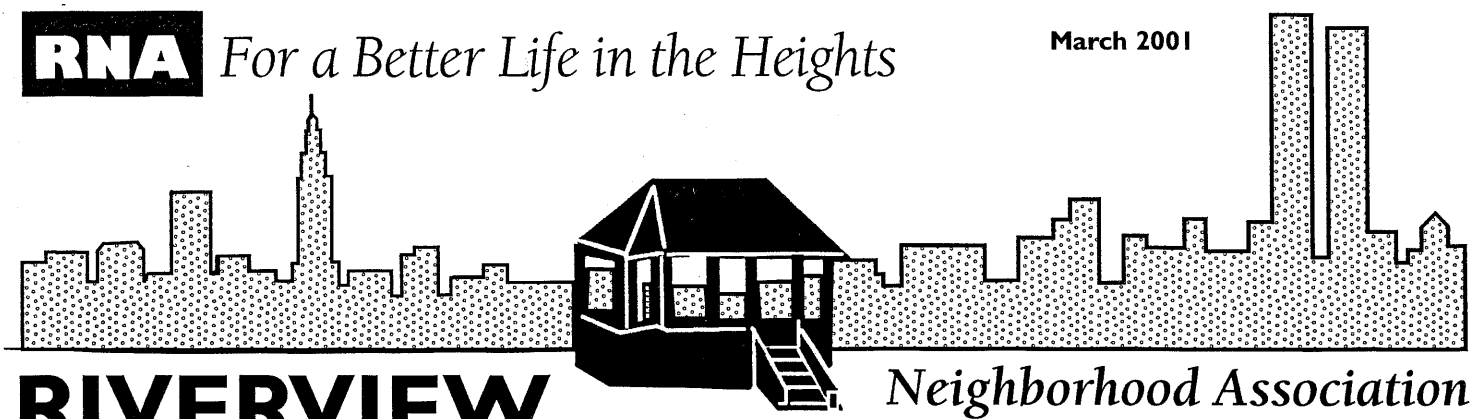
RNA For a Better Life in the Heights

March 2001



RIVERVIEW Neighborhood Association

232 Ogden Avenue • Jersey City, NJ 07307 • 201 798 0493

RNA IS NOT AFFILIATED WITH ANY POLITICAL PARTY, ORGANIZATION or ELECTED OFFICIAL

MAYORAL CANDIDATES

RNA has invited the mayoral candidates to our February, March and April meetings in order for the community to hear and question them about their positions on issues of citywide and local concern. Mayoral hopefuls **Councilwoman Melissa Holloway, Louis Manzo** and **Gerald McCann** are scheduled for the March 13th meeting. Council candidates for Wards C and D have also been invited, including **Maureen Corcoran (D)** and **Walter McDermott (C)** from the Manzo ticket. February's quests were **Robert Cavanaugh** and **Glenn Cunningham.** Candidates **Tom DeGise** and **Kevin Sluka** will attend the April meeting.

As in the past, RNA will participate with other neighborhood groups to organize debates for both the Ward and Mayoral races.

VOTE: *RNA ELECTIONS*

RNA will elect its executive board at the March 13th meeting. Nominations were opened in February and will remain open until the end of the March meeting, at which time the election will take place.

To be eligible to vote, an individual must be eighteen years old, paid their annual dues and live or own property within the constitutional boundaries of the RNA, which are Ogden and Palisade Avenues from Cuneo Place to Congress Street.

To run for office, an individual, in addition to the above qualifications, must be a current resident living within the RNA boundaries and an active member.

The following names have been placed in nomination for the following RNA executive positions:

CHAIR:	Vito Brunetti
VICE-CHAIR:	David Crowder
SECRETARY:	Maria Tuzzo
TREASURER:	Tim Gilliard
SGT-at-ARMS:	Beth D'Errico

The success and longevity of RNA is based on the participation of our members, neighbors and friends. Get involved by either nominating someone or being nominated yourself. More important, come to the meeting and vote in this election. By participating in this important neighborhood activity, you will have a voice in the decisions being made in your community.

Minutes of the February meeting as well as announcements for upcoming spring events will be published in the April RNA newsletter.

COMMUNITY UPDATES

STEEP SLOPE PROTECTION: On March 3rd, members of four Heights associations, including **RNA, Sgt. Anthony, Heights Hope**, and the **Palisade Ave. Coalition** reviewed the Planning Department's proposal for a steep slope ordinance. These groups have been actively lobbying the City to pass a zoning law to protect the Palisade cliffs as a natural resource and limit development in the adjacent areas since the Millennium Towers crisis of last year.

Unfortunately, the City's draft is a watered-down version of the community's own proposal, lacking such features as specific boundaries for a slope district, priority over existing zoning including redevelopment plans, a mathetical formula to reduce building densities for all new construction, inadequate setbacks for both the top and bottom of the cliffs and an inclusion of view corridors.

At this time, the Planning Board is scheduled to hold public hearings on **March 6th** and **22nd** regarding this proposal which is part of a completely new zoning ordinance for Jersey City. The four groups have started to organize the community to speak out against this ineffective plan and lobby for stronger protections for the Palisades. RNA urges its members to attend both Board meetings. In addition, people interested in helping with this effort should attend RNA's March 13th meeting or contact their respective associations for more information.

PALISADE CLIFF BLIGHT STUDY: On February 14th, the City Council tabled a resolution that would have authorized the Planning Board to conduct a blight study of the Palisade cliffs and the area below, identified as "The New Neighborhood", as a redevelopment zone. On Saturday, February 24th, members of the same four neighborhood groups met with **Planning Director Robert Cotter** to discuss this issue. It was mutually agreed that the study would not be re-introduced until the protections of the above steep slope ordinance were reviewed and ratified into law.

122-124 OGDEN AVENUE: On March 1st, RNA joined with local neighbors to oppose an application before the Board of Adjustment to construct a mid-rise building consisting of 7 two-bedroom units and off-street parking at this location. The developers need seven variances to build this project because it is too large for the lot size. **City Planner Claire Davis** recommended that the Board deny this application and suggested that two 2-family structures be built there instead. The Board will vote on this application on **Thursday, March 22nd**. RNA urges all interested parties to attend this meeting in support of your neighbors and protect your community from overdevelopment.

FOR A BETTER LIFE IN THE HEIGHTS

MEET THE MAYORAL CANDIDATES AT OUR
MEETING ON TUESDAY, MARCH 13TH
THE MEETING WILL BEGIN AT 7:00 PM SHARP
BECAUSE OF THE SPECIAL AGENDA.

RIVERVIEW NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION
232 OGDEN AVENUE
JERSEY CITY, NEW JERSEY 07307

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Riverview Neighborhood Association

RNA

Vito Brunetti
Chairperson

Steven Carr
Vice-chairperson

Maria Tuzzo
Secretary

Tim Gilliard
Treasurer

Beth D'Errico
Sergeant at Arms

COMING EVENTS:

RNA MEETING: Tuesday, March 13, 7:00 PM
LOCATION: HARBOR VIEW HEALTH CARE CENTER

☞ **Mayoral Candidates:**
Councilwoman Melissa Holloway
Louis Manzo
Gerald McCann

☞ **COMMUITY ISSUES:**
- **Steep Slope Ordinance**
- **Palisade Cliff Blight Study**
- PoliceNTF Report / NID Updates

☞ **ELECTIONS for RNA EXECUTIVE BOARD**

Planning Board: Tuesday, March 6 and 20, 6:00 PM
LOCATION: CITY HALL, 280 GROVE STREET

☞ **Lobby** for a strong **Steep Slope Ordinance**

Board of Adjustment: Thursday, March 22, 6:00 PM
LOCATION: CITY HALL, 280 GROVE STREET

☞ **Oppose** *the* **Mid-Rise Project** *for 122-124 Ogden Avenue*